

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 16287

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJ: INCREASED DINH TUONG ACTIVITY: THE REASON WHY

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO USDAO/AOSOR-DA SAIGON/USSAG
SEPT 07 FROM CAN THO BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

CAN THO 0704

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: INCREASED DINH TUONG ACTIVITY: THE REASON WHY

1. THE 7TH ARVN DIVISION'S CHIEF OF STAFF TOLD CONGEN
OFFICERS SEPTEMBER 6 THAT RECENT INCREASED VC/NVA MILITARY
ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE (INCLUDING ABFS AND GROUND
ATTACKS AGAINST GVN OUTPOSTS) HAS BEEN AIMED AT KEEPING OPEN
VC/NVA SUPPLY ROUTES FROM CAMBODIA INTO DINH TUONG AND KIEN
HOA IN FACE OF GVN EFFORTS TO INTERDICT THEM. SEVENTH
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DIVISION BLOCKING FORCES, HE STATED, HAVE OVER RECENT WEEKS

DISRUPTED VC/NVA ATTEMPTS TO INFILTRATE MATERIAL ALONG INFILTRATION ROUTES 1A AND 1B. THE BLOCKING HAS RESULTED, HE SAID, IN THE CREATION OF SEVERAL ALTERNATE ROUTES THROUGH DINH TUONG PROVINCE.

2. RECENT VC ATTACKS OCCURRED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ALONG VC/NVA SUPPLY ROUTES. THE VC HAVE OVERRUN SEVERAL OUTPOSTS ALONG THE CAI BE-CAI LAY BORDER, A TRADITIONAL VC SUPPLY ROUTE. THE VC HAVE ALSO CONCENTRATED HEAVILY ON ANOTHER TRADITIONAL SUPPLY ROUTE - THE CAI LAY-SAM GIANG BORDER. ONE OUTPOST IN SOUTHERN SAM GIANG HAS BEEN OVERRUN TWICE; OTHER OUTPOSTS IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN BOMBARDED HEAVILY. IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE BORDER AREA, DINH TUONG SECTOR RF BATTALIONS HAVE HAD HEAVY CONTACT WITH VC UNITS ALTHOUGH OUTPOSTS HAVE NOT BEEN OVERRUN.

3. THE 7TH DIVISION HAS REACTED TO THESE ASSAULTS ON GVN POSITIONS. THE CHIEF OF STAFF SAID THAT RECENT 10TH REGIMENT ACTIVITIES IN DINH TUONG SOUTH OF THE TRI PHAP AREA WERE NOT DIRECTED AT THE VC/NVA TRI PHAP BASE AREA BUT WERE IN REACTION TO OUTPOST LOSSES IN THE CAI BE-CAI LAY BORDER AREA. IN SOUTHERN CAI BE-CAI LAY WHERE OTHER OUTPOSTS HAVE BEEN OVERRUN, THE 7TH DIVISION HAS SET UP A NEW AREA OF OPERATIONS. THEREFORE, TWO OF THE 7TH DIVISION'S THREE REGIMENTS ARE PRIMARILY OCCUPIED WITH BLOCKING THE CAI BE-CAI LAY BORDER SUPPLY LINE AND WITH REACTING TO ATTACKS ON GVN POSITIONS.

4. DESPITE REPORTS OF CONTINUED MATERIAL INFILTRATION THROUGH DINH TUONG, THE CHIEF OF STAFF STATED THAT 7TH DIVISION UNITS HAVE NOT CAPTURED MANY SUPPLIES. SEVENTH DIVISION COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN KHOA NAM, ON THE OTHER HAND, INDICATED TO US RECENTLY THAT ONLY 40 PERCENT OF VC/NVA MATERIAL IS MAKING IT THROUGH HIS BLOCKING FORCES.

5. IN ANSWER TO A DIRECT QUESTION, THE CHIEF OF STAFF SAID THERE HAS BEEN NO FIGHTING IN DINH TUONG ALONG ROUTE 4. HE AGREED WITH OUR SUGGESTION THAT SAIGON PRESS REFERENCES TO A BATTLE FOR ROUTE 4 ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

6. COMMENT: THE CHIEF OF STAFF'S EXPLANATION OF THE INCREASED
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VC/NVA ACTIVITY AGAINST OUTPOSTS IN DINH TUONG MAKES GOOD SENSE IF HIS MAP SHOWING THE COINCIDENCE OF ATTACKS AND LINES OF SUPPLY IS CORRECT. HIGH-LEVEL MR IV OFFICERS A WEEK PREVIOUSLY TOLD US THAT THIS ACTIVITY WAS VC RESPONSE TO INCREASED 7TH DIVISION PRESSURE ON THE TRI PHAP BASE AREA. NEITHER OF THE TWO EXPLANATIONS RULES OUT THE OTHER.
LEHMANN
UNQUOTE.

APPLING

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